





PATENT SLIP & DOCK COMPANY  
NOVITY IRON WORKS.  
No. 33, PRATA WEST,  
MACHINE, BOILER, AND BLACKSMITH  
IRON AND BRASS FOUNDRY.

THE Undersigned is now prepared to take on large vessels for PAINTING and REPAIRING, also large REPAIRS to Hulls and Machinery, &c.

A Large Assortment of Spars and Lumber, Iron and Copper Plates, Iron and Brass Rods, Pitch, Oakum, Lead, Sheet Metal and Nails, Screws, Bolt and Nut Screws always on hand.

Boats and Steam Launches built to order.  
H. C. BAILIE.  
Office, Novity Iron Works, Prata West,  
Hongkong, 28th July, 1875. [Sign 1148]

## BIRTH.

On the 14th instant, at the "Hornet," Hongkong, the wife of DANIEL EDWARD CALDWELL, of a daughter, stillborn. [1851]

## The Daily Press

HONGKONG, OCTOBER 10th, 1875.

It is very generally believed, though the fact has not been authoritatively announced, that a reform in the present system of taxation on foreign goods is included in Mr. Wade's conditions of peace. Such a reform is indeed, as is generally supposed, a necessary and a just one, and one which will do much to remove the present difficulty which has been unsatisfactory to British merchants in China. The lekin and barrier dues have been multiplied to such a degree that all trade with the interior has become impossible to foreign merchants, and has increased the cost of British goods to a point which renders them unmarketable. It is to this cause the decline in foreign trade with China is in small degree attributable. Almost ever since the signing of the Treaty of Tientsin the Chinese officials have been endeavoring to fetter trade by their exactions. These have become so numerous and heavy that they are fairly intolerable, especially as some of them have been in distinct violation of the terms of the Treaty. It was foolishly imagined, when that document was signed, that at last China was opened to trade, and no further difficulties would ensue. Subsequent events have proved how erroneous were these surmises. The Chinese have not even kept the word of promise to the end. Emboldened by impunity and the indifference shown by British officials, they have contrived, little by little, to deprive the foreign merchant of the advantages gained for him by the last war. By the levying of an unlimited number of inland imposts and by placing in the hands of native guilds they have practically excluded the foreign merchant from trading with the interior. No wonder that trade is languishing in China.

The time has certainly arrived when the British Government, out of regard for the interests of British merchants, should strenuously insist upon an amendment of the system which has proved so fertile in abuses, so productive of vexatious and damaging restrictions on trade. It is reported that Mr. Wade was instructed to demand the exemption of British goods from local taxation within a certain radius of a Treaty port. This would be a valuable concession, but it is not enough. What is wanted is reform short through China. Anything that falls short of this will leave the door open for new dodges by the Chinese, new difficulties to be met by the foreign merchant. The total abolition of barrier dues is urgently called for and ought to be enacted. They have been the means of imposing a protective duty on all British goods within a limited circle of the Treaty ports, and even if reduced to a single station, protests might arise after a while be found for levying some fresh duty. Of course it would not be fair to the Provincial Governments to abolish all inland dues without making some compensatory payment. They should receive a portion of the revenue derived from foreign trade, and to secure this end one payment might be made to them which should cover all provincial taxes, in the same way that payment once made to the Maritime Customs settles all Imperial demands. The local taxation should be drawn up in a regular tariff, and the duty having been paid according to it, it should be given which would clear goods of all local taxing duties to any part of the province. This would simplify the work of collecting the taxes and greatly facilitate trade, besides giving the foreign merchant a chance of placing his superior goods in fair competition with the native production. To insist upon such a reform as that sketched would be an act of simple justice to the foreign merchant, and would entail no possible hardship upon the Chinese.

Even this arrangement, however, falls somewhat short of what could be wished. The Imperial Government ought to be able to impose duties on foreign trade, and the Provincial Governments to have to voice in the matter. But this, in the present condition of the country and its Government, is impossible. The Imperial Government wrings every cash it can obtain out of the provinces, and leaves the Governors to recruit their finances as best they may. It is, therefore, not to be expected that the revenue taxes will be centred in one establishment under the present régime. British merchants would no doubt be content to pay one specified tax as an inland Customs duty, so long as the duties, annoying, and ruinous bar are now existing were abolished. It is to be hoped that Mr. Wade will be able to extract such a concession. It would prove an almost incalculable benefit to trade, which is at present borne down, would be capable of great expansion. Trade is dull and declining now, not because there is no demand, but simply because the goods cannot be conveyed to the would-be consumer without being subjected to such a host of "squeeze" taxes as to bring their cost to a prohibitive point.

The competition of native merchants has, too, by co-operation with the officials, been made more formidable to the foreign merchant. The abolition of the lekin stations as far as foreign goods were concerned would alter all this. The foreign merchant would no longer be obliged to sell his goods at a loss, if he sold at all, for the interior; and the native guilds would no longer be able to obtain a monopoly like that constituted at Ningpo, where they have made a contract with the "Zouli," which enables them to impose the transit tax and give passes for goods.

Foreign merchants have found it useless to contend against this obstructive trade, and the result has been, of course, a diminution in trade. All these monopolies and obstructions would be swept away by the reform suggested, which commands itself alike to the interests of British trade and commerce and the dilates of common sense.

We learn that the Right Rev. Bishop Hurdon will preach at the eleven o'clock service of the day, on the subject of the "Sabbath," a subject which has been recently discussed in the colony, namely, the observance of the Sabbath.

We are pleased to notice that substantial improvements are being carried out in a number of the streets in the European portion of the city. The Street-Commissioner has been indefatigable in his efforts to improve the roads of the Colony, and the community are much indebted to him for the excellent condition in which the various thoroughfares are kept.

The China Standard relates a report that Kienloko, a famous Chinese, with 4000 followers consisting of farmers and fighting men, has made his way to Uryunghai (P) in Russian Territory. To this is added the remark that a Japanese resident in Korea, named Tokoku, is endeavoring to induce Kienloko to accompany him to his country. Of the motive of the latter's refusal from China no explanation is attempted.—Japan Mail.

## SUPREME COURT.

18th October.

BEFORE THE HON. CHIEF JUSTICE (SIR J. SMITH) AND MR. JUSTICE SNOWDEN.

AN APPEAL AGAINST A DECISION OF ONE OF THE POLICE MAGISTRATES.

REGINA v. CHUN CHONG-KOON.—This was an appeal from the decision of one of the Police Magistrates.

The appellant, Mr. C. (instructed by Messrs. Stephens and Holmes), was for appellant; and the Attorney-General (instructed by the Crown Solicitor) was for the Crown.

The case was a simple one, and the facts of the case were as follows:—

Low Ah Sui was the mistress of the house where the crime was committed. She was a Chinese woman, and was married to a Chinese man.

The crime was committed on the 1st of October, 1875, at the house of the appellant.

The crime was committed by the appellant, who was a Chinese man.

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## POLICE INTELLIGENCE.

15th October.

BEFORE THE HON. C. M. O. MAY.

18th October.

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## DEEPENING THE MOUTH OF THE MISSISSIPPI.

The Philadelphia correspondent of The Times says the progress already made in deepening the mouth of the Mississippi by the construction of a system of jetties, dikes, and breakwaters, is such that it will be successfully accomplished. Until within a few days work has been confined to the eastern side of the Pass, but now it is going on upon the western shore as well. On the eastern side of South Pass piles have been driven for a distance of 7,000 feet from the shore, and the interstices have been filled with concrete. The work is being pushed vigorously, and it is expected that the Pass will be deepened to 20 ft. The work on the western shore, which has just begun, is to be pushed vigorously, and it is expected that the Pass will be deepened to 20 ft. The work on the western shore, which has just begun, is to be pushed vigorously, and it is expected that the Pass will be deepened to 20 ft.

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